

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/731,361

Applicant(s)

CARTER, ODIE KENNETH

Examiner

Michael C. Heck

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment dated 29 December 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 4/20/2001 and amended 12/9/2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 02/22/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Response to Amendment

1. The objection to the drawings in the First Office Action is withdrawn in response to the applicant's amendment to the drawings.
2. The objection to the specification in the First Office Action is withdrawn in response to the applicant's amendment to the specification and abstract.
3. The 35 U.S.C. § 101 in the first Office Action for claims 29-34 are withdrawn in response to the applicant canceling claims 29-34.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claims 4-28 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention of claim 4 and claim 23 disclose a system and source code for execution by a control component of a system for controlling storage and distribution of money tills. The system comprises a cabinet having a front side and a back side where the interior space is partitioned to provide a plurality of compartments, with each compartment operable to receive at least one of the bar coded money tills. The cabinet is mounted through a wall so as to present the front side to a first area defined by the wall and to present the back side to a second area defined by the wall. Within the compartments of the cabinet a presence sensor for detecting a presence of the money till received within the compartment is used to report the presence of the money till to the computer, and a bar code reader operable to determine the type of money till is used to report the type of money till to the computer. The cabinet includes a front

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opening allowing access from the front side of the cabinet to at least one of the compartments, a back opening allowing access from the back side of the cabinet to at least one of the compartments, and a plurality of hinged doors mounted to the cabinet for front and back side access, with each door operable to open and close and thereby selectively restrict access to a corresponding one of the compartments. The cabinet has at least one input device operable to accept input selected from a group consisting of keypads, fingerprint readers, retina scanners, and voice identifiers, whereby the input includes information sufficient to identify a particular employee, the information being recorded and stored by the computer for subsequent recall. A computer is coupled to the input device and with each door and operable to control access to the compartments by receiving the input and comparing the input to stored information to generate one of a plurality of possible comparison results and, upon generating at least a particular one of the comparison results, to open at least one of the doors. One or more visual display devices are mounted on the back side of the cabinet and operable to visually communicate a status of the compartment and a status of the money till received within the compartment. A visual display viewable from the front side of the cabinet and controlled by the computer is used to visually communicate information. A printing device accessible from the front side of the cabinet and controlled by the computer is used to print messages. The computer is further operable to graphically communicate information regarding a status of the compartment and a status of the money till received within the compartment. The computer can signal to a person with a pager that a condition has occurred. The system further includes at least one camera

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positioned to view the front side of the cabinet that is connected to a recording device, such as, a video cassette recorder or a computer, to record the view of the camera.

The closest prior art, Mardon (U.S. Patent 5,126,732) teaches a storage system with adjacent bins, lockers or like compartments each one closed by a door and enabling any user to deposit or lodge objects such as luggage or parcels or packets into a selected bin, locker or like compartment. The system comprising a microprocessor that allows a user to compose a personal code that is transmitted to the microprocessor device which controls the locking of the lock of the door of the selected bin or locker. Also, Mardon teaches the keyboard enables the user to enter his personal code, which is compared to the code memorized or stored in the storage of the microprocessor device, which, after having verified the coincidence of both codes, would operate the unlocking of the lock of the door of the occupied bin or locker. Mardon does not specifically teach each compartment operable to receive at least one of the money tills, however, the storage system of Mardon is capable of storing money tills. Mardon and the prior art of record fail to teach or suggest a back opening allowing access from the back side of the cabinet to at least one of the compartments, and a plurality of hinged doors mounted to the cabinet for front and back side access, with each door operable to open and close and thereby selectively restrict access to a corresponding one of the compartments. Mardon and the prior art of record also fail to teach or suggest a computer that is further operable to graphically communicate information regarding a status of the compartment and a status of the money till received within the compartment, and a printing device accessible from the front side of the cabinet and

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controlled by the computer to print messages. Mardon and the prior art of record fail to teach the computer can signal to a person with a pager that a condition has occurred.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Pohlen (DE 195 28 250 A1) discloses a key controlled access to facilities, e.g., locker, with built-in identification.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (703) 305-8215. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:00am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

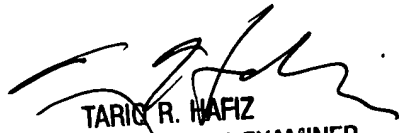
Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "**Box AF**"]

(703) 746-9419 [Informal/Draft communication, labeled "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to 220 South 20th Street, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

mch
15 March 2005


**TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**